

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

20 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 20 January 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Irwin,
Mr. Merchant, Mr. Riddleberger, Mr. Smith

1. Senate Confirmation of Mr. Merchant's Appointment

Mr. Merchant discussed his appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in connection with his appointment as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He spoke particularly of the questions which Senator Morse had said he would present to Mr. Merchant.

2. Letter to Robert Murphy

The Board asked the Executive Officer to prepare a letter to Mr. Murphy expressing its appreciation for his services as Chairman.

3. Work of the OCB

Mr. Gray pointed out that the mission and functioning of the OCB will be coming in for increasing attention during this last year of the Eisenhower Administration, particularly in connection with the "legacy of thought" that the President wishes to leave to his successor. Mr. Gray conceded that some dissatisfaction regarding the work of the OCB has been expressed in certain quarters. In this connection, Mr. Allen commented that the successful conclusion of an international agreement on Antarctica, and the organizing of a stepped-up U. S. effort there can be attributed in large measure to the influence of the Board.

4. Reconnaissance Satellite

The recent newspaper stories about the reconnaissance satellite

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were then discussed, with the members agreeing that this sort of publicity is very harmful.

Mr. Gray reported that George Kistiakowsky had been present at a speech to the Harvard Law School by Mr. Feldman, of the U.S. delegation to the UN, in the course of which Mr. Feldman had stated his opinion that such satellites represent an illegal invasion of sovereign rights. Mr. Gray said that this entire question will be discussed in the near future by the NSC. The Board's attention was also called to a plan which had been discussed within the Army whereby the U.S. should demonstrate its ability to shoot down a satellite of this kind.

5. Chemical Warfare

The next topic revolved around a bill introduced by Congressman Kastenmeier of Wisconsin which it would make it mandatory to restrict the possible use of chemical warfare weapons to retaliation. The Board agreed that this was not consistent with NSC policy, that it would be unwise to tie ourselves down with such a restriction, and that it should be handled in the same way as nuclear weapons, i. e. its use would be decided by the President in each case.

6. Protest About U.S. Dramatic Productions

Mr. Gray said that there had been protests about U.S. policy in sponsoring the sending to the Soviet Union of such productions as "Grapes of Wrath" and "West Side Story."

Mr. Allen explained that comments of this kind were entirely unjustified. He pointed out that "Grapes of Wrath" had been made available to the Russians in the 30's and that the situation on the "West Side Story" was that the Russians had wanted only the play, without the music, and that this suggestion had been refused.

7. Waldemar Nielsen

Mr. Gray said that the designated Staff Director for the Sprague Committee, Waldemar Nielsen, would probably continue to receive his regular salary from the Ford Foundation. Mr. Dulles commented that this would entail certain disadvantages and the Board agreed that it should be looked into further.

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8. Soviet Missile

Mr. Dulles reported the latest intelligence on the firing of the Soviet missile into the Pacific testing range.

9. Testimony by Secretary Gates

Mr. Allen discussed the recent testimony before Congress by Secretary Gates.


28 JAN 1960
ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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